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## *Press Communiqué*

### **The Chairperson of the AU Commission concludes visit to Algeria where he participated in the International Conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNGA Resolution 1514**

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping has concluded a four-day visit to Algeria, which took place on 12-14 December 2010, at the invitation of the Algerian Government, during which he participated in the International Conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UN General Assembly Resolution 1514 on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Nearly 200 leading personalities in the realms of politics, media and culture attended the conference, notably, former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who is also the dean of former African Heads of States, as well as Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States and Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, representing Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The two-day conference which was solemnly opened on 13 December 2010 by Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, was organized in workshops under the themes: “The Contribution of Resolution 1514 to the Emancipation of Peoples” and “The Role of Media and Film in the Expression of the Rights of Peoples to Self-government.”

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson warmly congratulated Algeria and its President for the opportune initiative to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonized Nations and Peoples and for having invited to the august event leading African and World Personalities, whose names conjure memories of the glorious and exalting struggle for the liberation of the continent. Chairperson Ping recalled the frontline role played by Algeria in the heroic struggle for its own independence and the unconditional and priceless support given to other African peoples and countries in their struggle for emancipation from colonial rule.

“Fifty years on, it is worth acknowledging that the implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 1514 has enabled the achievement of great progress in the liberation of peoples and territories under colonial domination. The process, however, is yet to be completed in Africa where the Western Sahara remains one of 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories under the United Nations Charter.

“In that regard, we must not forget that the Western Sahara, a Member State of the African Union, is still awaiting the organization of a self-determination referendum to enable its people freely choose their future,” the Chairperson declared.

With regard to the second phase in the achievement of total emancipation for Africa, Dr. Ping indicated that it focuses on economic development, sub-regional and regional integration and the furtherance of democratic processes.

“The African Union recognizes that these remaining challenges are enormous and thus require at least the same audacity, determination and perseverance demonstrated by our Fathers and Ancestors in the struggle to dismantle colonialism, apartheid and racism,” he added.

Chairperson Ping underscored the need to engage in a new struggle to enable the over 100 countries that gained independence as a result of Resolution 1514 to fully participate in international decision making, exercise their political, economic, social and cultural rights and strive for the enhanced democratization of the United Nations system; in sum, to achieve the restructuring of global governance.

In that regard, Africa, grounded in human values, strengthened by the size of its population, the vigor of its youth, the determination of its women, the contribution of its Diaspora, the wealth of its environment and the abundance of its natural resources, must and should participate as a matter of right, he added.

The Chairperson concluded his remarks by indicating that the African Union Commission is convinced that Africa is more than ever committed to be an architect and beneficiary of a new human intelligence order, at the service of equitable and shared peace and prosperity.

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***Addis Ababa, 14 December 2010***